sundown. Another group comes in and sing till about midnight.
And another group comes in and they sing till morning. Just like
they just go on--they don't stop. So these dancers--somebody's
always dancing. The rest be laying around. They don't drink
water and they don't eat. Sometimes they suck on that sage in
order to get moisture out. But sometimes a big rain comes. And
they always say, "One of those dancers stole water." (That is,
if a big rain comes up, people think it's because one of the
dancers drank water.) If they get in there they're not supposed
to drop out. They have to stay in there four days and four
nights. No water. No eat.
(What about sleeping?)
Well, they rest. They rest. I guess you seen the pictures of
these Sun Dancers. They really something. They try to imitate
nature. They got all different designs. They don't have any
wardrobe from the waist up. They got some kind of a apron--
either calico or buckskin. I don't know what's wrapped around
their waist. That's their tradition. But that's what I seen.
I'm describing what I seen. And this fellow that's pretty well
known--he was about the last fellow that I remember. Well, you
know. They call him Noble. And he was the leader. (Probably
Noble Star. Myrtle Lincoln said he always used to put up Sun
Dancers long after everyone else had lost interest. See some
of her tapes.--jj)
(Of the Arapaho?)

DANCING TO THE SUN ON LAST DAY

I think he was a Cheyenne or Arapaho. I don't know which. But
of course that's the Sun Dance. So, last--say the last few
moments--they open up the west. The west end of that arbor.
(The brush on the west side of the Sun Dance Lodge is torn away:
so that the setting sun shines in.) And, say, about five o'clock,
when that sun hits them direct, they dance towards that sun.
And he's got two hoops that's got feathers--just like it's sewed
on there. (Sacred wheel)
(He's got what?)
Hoops. And it's got--everything on it is decorated. But mostly
feathers. And the way he holds it, well, it's got a rag tied to
it. He's got two of them. Dancing towards the sun. When that